

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7499

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 1696

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO AND UN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 049329

1. WE NOTE THAT DEPARTMENT PLACES CHILE AMONG THOSE WE CAN COUNT UPON IN COMMITTEE OF 24 TO OPPOSE PUERTO RICO RESOLUTION - I.E., VOTE IN OUR FAVOR. CHILEAN UN DELEGATION MAY WELL CONVEY THAT VIEW NOW, BUT DEPARTMENT AND USUN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT GOC SUPPORT FOR THIS AND OTHER US POSITIONS IN UN COULD BEGIN TO SLIP TO EXTENT THAT USG CONTINUES TO VOTE AGAINST CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN UN BODIES AND CONGRESS SINGLES OUT CHILE FOR SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS AND ECONOMIC AID.

2. MOST RECENTLY, US SENATE ACTION DESIGNED TO BAN ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE INCLUDING COMMERCIAL CASH SALES AND DELIVERY OF PREVIOUS CONTRACTED EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING HAS HIT GOC HARD, PROVOKING REAL RESENTMENT AND ANXIETY. IF AMENDMENT BECOMES LAW, WE EXPECT SEVERE CHILEAN REACTION. GOC IS IN NO POSITION TO RETALIATE AGAINST US IN DIRECT, SERIOUS MANNER, BUT IT MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO RESPOND TO THISE AND OTHER "INJURIES" SUCH AS US VOTE ON UNGA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION BY ABSTAINING ON OR (THOUGH MUCH LESS LIKELY) VOTING FOR A HOSTILE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO. TO DEGREE GOC WOULD BE ASSOCIATING ITSELF

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WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AND MODERATE THIRD WORLD NATIONS

IN SUCH A VOTE, TEMPTATION TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE US WOULD BE GREATER; EVEN THOUGH ULTIMATELY SELF-DEFEATING.

3. SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT WE NOT TAKE GOC VOTE FOR GRANTED. WE SHOULD APPROACH GOC SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF ANY VOTING SITUATION IN COMMITTEE OF 24 TO WORK OUT WITH THEM ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY RAISE AS TO WHERE WE WERE WHEN THEY NEEDED US.

4. WE EXPECT GOC WOULD BE WILLING SEND UN OR WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR TO PR IF INVITATION EXTENDED. THIS IS NOT ISSUE FOR GOC, HOWEVER. GOC HAS NO REAL DOUBTS ABOUT USG POSITION ON PR, AND AGREES WITH IT. FAILURE TO SUPPORT US FULLY ON PR WOULD NOT REFLECT GOC VIEW ON PR QUESTION ITSELF, BUT STATE OF US/GOC RELATIONS ON BROADER ISSUES.
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